

FROM THE STUDY

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2009

We are currently reviewing our processes and procedures regarding access to and exits from school. We are functioning in an age where I fear it is no longer possible to have such an open and accessible school site. You may have noticed the 'tightening' already and I am aware that one or two parents have queried why gates are not open and why it is necessary to collect Prep School children from the playground and not from the classrooms. We are trying to create a system where the children can learn, the teachers can teach and parents can feel part of the process in as safe environment as possible.

As a staff we are having to improve practises also. Could I ask parents to work with us during this review and in particular I would like to the raise the following:

- Children must not be left at school before 8.00am in the morning.
- If your child signs up for Prep in the Main School, but then goes home at the normal time, the teacher on duty must be told.
- The Main School door is locked between 9.00am and 4.00pm. If parents use the door between these times, please ensure it is locked when you close it.
- If parents bring things to school for their children during the day they must report to the School Secretary.

I can understand why parents may feel the need to go into a changing room and look for their child's kit, HOWEVER, this must not happen for obvious child safe guarding reasons.

Parents are an essential ingredient in the success of Widford Lodge. We continue to rely upon your help in so many ways, however, current legislation is pushing us to a position where a parent who volunteers on a regular basis will require a Criminal Record Check. As a volunteer, the CRB check is free (apart from an administration charge). If you would be willing to undergo a CRB check as a volunteer at Widford Lodge could you please contact me and I can discuss the process with you.

Carol Service

Congratulations and Thank You to all those who contributed to the Carol Service on Tuesday. The Cathedral was packed to the rafters and all those present witnessed a wonderful occasion where the Christmas message was delivered in a wholehearted yet sensitive fashion.

The children behaved very well and Mrs Poole and her team deserve a pat on the back for creating such a lovely event. Thank you also to those who donated prizes for the raffle (which raised £115) and refreshments for the party that followed the service back at school, a good time was had by all.

NATIVITY PLAYS.

We have had some fantastic plays this term and I have enjoyed every single one. Great acting, super singing, awesome costumes and a message that is as fresh as it always has been! Thank you children and teachers.

HEADMASTER'S AWARDS

Congratulations to the following children, Kian Fraser and Elliot Moss (1P/BS) for English, Olivia Meddle (3S) for Maths, Alex Barlow, Edward Davis and Arya Vindlacheruvu (4P) for Maths, Sophie Bright, and Jessica Whiley (4P) for Science, Oliver Gravett (4G) for English, Taylor Sage (6T) for History and finally Emily Scott (6T) for English. Well done to you all.

POLITENESS & COURTESY CUP

The winner of the Politeness & Courtesy Cup this week is George Miller. Congratulations George.

SPORTS NEWS

RUGBY NEWS

Numbers would not allow for a fully-fledged House Rugby competition this year. However, two teams with the names of 'Chips' and 'Beans' put on a fine display, of not only rugby but a 'Haka' and an anthem as well to delight a band of hardy supporters.

The result was not important, more the spirit and quality of the endeavour on display. Well done boys!

Un9 RUGBY V DAME B's

Yesterday all the boys in Form 4 travelled to Saffron Walden to take on Dame B's. The 'a' team put on a great display, coming from a try down to win by 4 tries – 2 tries. Although, still having much to learn about the game, their determination not to be bettered, their courage and athleticism saw them overwhelm their hosts in the second half. Every boy played well!

Try Scorers : Oliver Gravett 2, Noah Chilvers 1, Teddy Mortlock 1.

Man of the Match: Teddy Mortlock.

The 'b' team found themselves up against it as they ended up playing against a mix of 'a' and 'b' team players. It soon became apparent that Dame B's had a little too much pace for us and scored several early tries. George Duce, the captain, and Jack Durrance put in some rampaging runs and Luke Degun and Edward Davis showed a decent turn of pace with the ball in hand.

Unfortunately our tackling was almost nonexistent and the match finished at 7 tries – 0 to Dames B's.

Man of the Match; Edward Davis.

NEXT TERM

Next term the main game for boys is soccer. Soccer players must wear shin pads. Rugby studs can be used while playing soccer.

PLEASE NAME ALL KIT AND UNIFORM

CRICKET COACHING

If there is sufficient interest I can arrange a group coaching session for 6 children next term. The 'net' is provisionally booked at Skeggs Farm in Writtle, on Tuesdays from 4.15 – 5.15pm. The sessions will be led by David Byford, a parent at Widford Lodge and a level 3 coach. The cost will be £70 for 10 weeks.

If you are interested please contact me before the end of term.

CROSS COUNTRY

After days of rain made it look like the event would be cancelled, 24 runners travelled to Chelmer Park on Friday 4th to take part in a cross country event organised by Elm Green. Four schools entered teams: Elm Green, St Cedds, St Philomena's (Frinton) and Widford Lodge.

Girls and boys ran together in their year group's races, with medals for each of the first three boys and girls in each race, and the overall target being the school with the best team performance. The Form 3's, who have not run competitively before, were really keen and ran brilliantly. Well done to the whole team, Patrick Wiseman, Alexander Houston, Tom Perkins, Alia Howland, Eleanor White and William Dobbie. Special mention to Alexander who received the Bronze medal and Patrick who won the race!

They were ably followed by the Form 4's, Oliver Gravett, Nick Gardner, Jessica Whiley, Noah Chilvers, Sophie Gardner and Olivia Snooks, who all put in a great deal of effort. Well done to Jessica and Oliver who earned Silver medals.

The Form 5 runners were fantastic all 6 of them finished in the top 12 runners. Well done to Joe Burton, Mackenzie Maberly, Phoebe Wickham, Pippa Ritchie, Ted Stroud and Poppy Allen. The girls took a clean sweep of the medals, with the Bronze to poppy, Silver to Pippa and Gold to Phoebe! The form 6 runners did not disappoint either, excellent running by Matthew Gilham, Georgina Stevens, Nathaniel Patten, Rory Taylor, Alice Aldridge and Alice Copping, with Matthew and Georgina both being awarded Bronze medals.

After such an exciting afternoon, we were delighted to be awarded the cup as winners of the event! A well deserved victory, congratulations to you all. Miss Cole and Mrs Bisset-Smith.

A LETTER FROM THE PALACE!

Young Harry Insley in 1E, sent Prince Harry a lovely letter and an illustration, and this is part of the letter he received back.

"Dear Harry,

His Royal Highness thought your drawing was exceptionally good, and was delighted that you gave him so many medals on his uniform. It was extremely kind of you to take the trouble to send this picture especially for your namesake, Prince Harry, and His Royal Highness has asked me to thank you very much.

I have enclosed some information about Prince Harry, which I hope you will find interesting, and you will find a lot more facts about His Royal Highness and The Royal Family at the website address www.princeofwales.gov.uk. You will notice, under the Children's Section of the website, that there is the opportunity to have a drawing or painting published and, as you are certainly very skilled at drawing, I thought you might like to consider this.

Prince Harry has asked me to thank you once again and to send you the enclosed photographs, one taken with his brother, Prince William. These come from His Royal Highness with warmest best wishes to you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claudia Holloway.”

Harry will treasure this letter and the photographs and I hope it may encourage other young talented painters to do likewise.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

ROMANS DUTY WEEK

Monday 14th	The whole school to the 'Pantomime' at the Civic Centre. Pre-Prep will be back at school ready for collecting at 5.30pm The Prep school will be ready for collecting from school at 6.00pm. Please DO NOT take your child until they have been dismissed by their teacher.
Tuesday 15th	Prep Drama Club play. 9.30am (Doors open 9.15am)
Wednesday 16th	House general knowledge Quiz 9.15am
	TERM ENDS
	Pre-Prep School, Midday.
	Prep school, 2.30pm.